

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Alleviating Poverty in the U.S.: The Role of SNAP Benefits

Type of Report
(ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

☒ Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service ☐ Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
USDA

Agency Contact: Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: We use Current Population Survey data to examine the effect of SNAP on poverty from 2000 to 2009, by adding program benefits to income. We consider the impact of SNAP benefits on three measures of poverty—the headcount, the poverty gap, and the squared poverty gap—which portray the prevalence, depth, and severity of poverty. We use 10 years of cross-sectional data from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS), a nationally representative sample of households that provides information on several different sources of income, including in-kind benefits such as SNAP. We consider the effect of adding the value of SNAP benefits to the definition of family income used in the official U.S. poverty calculation, and compare several measures of annual poverty with and without SNAP benefits. The CPS is ideal for this analysis because it is the data source for official U.S. poverty estimation. A limitation of the CPS is that SNAP participation and benefits are under-reported in the survey, which we expect to produce an underestimate of SNAP's effect on poverty.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: ☐ Panel Review ☒ Individual Reviewers
☐ Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 09/08/11 End: XX/XX/XX Completed: XX/XX/XX

Number of Reviewers: ☐ 3 or fewer ☒ 4 to 10 ☐ More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: ☒ Agency ☐ Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? ☐ Yes ☒ No



